

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 are pending and are rejected.

CLAIMS

**Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over
US 4,631,367 ("Coviello") in view of US 4,996,709 ("Heep")**

Responsive to the rejection of claims 11, 14, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coviello in view of Heep, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable because Coviello and Heep, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest a multiline KSU-less telephone system including a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones for paging, as recited in independent claims 11 and 15.

For example, claim 11 reads as follows:

*11. A multiline KSU-less telephone system having a plurality of telephones for providing a paging feature, comprising:
a first telephone of the plurality of telephones for selecting
a group of telephones from the plurality of telephones in the KSU-less system;
a half duplex channel in the system;
the first telephone initiating a voice message to the group of telephones using the half duplex voice channel in response to a user request; and telephones in the group receive and play the voice message from the first telephone automatically regardless of receiving user action and wherein after playing said voice message, one telephone in the group answering the first telephone initiates a two-way conversation with a user of said first telephone. (Emphasis added.)*

Note that the first telephone can select a group of telephone from the plurality of telephones in the KSU-less system for paging.

By contrast, Coviello discloses a KSU-less system 10 shown in FIG. 1. In the system 10, substantially identical station sets 12, 14, and 16 are parallel wired to an eight-conductor bus 18. See col. 3, lines 18-22, and FIGs. 1 and 2. As such, a paging signal initiated by a station set is broadcast to all other station sets in the

system. The initiating station set (relied upon as the first telephone) has no option to select a group of station sets among all the station sets, as recited in claim 11.

In the system disclosed in Coviello, any station set user can initiate a paging operation by going off hook and pressing the intercom button 44 (ICM) on the keypad to activate paging amplifiers 49 in all station sets via a generator 46 in the respective station set. See col. 5, lines 46-50, and FIGs. 1 and 2. In response to pressing the ICM button 44, the page control driver circuit 45 in the initiating station set injects a paging amplifier actuation signal on the bus 28, and detectors 46 in all station sets sense this signal and, in response, turn on the respective station set paging amplifiers 48. See col. 5, lines 50-55. The detector 46 in the TPC (station set 12) also actuates splash tone generator 72, which then injects a voice frequency splash tone signal on the bus 28. See col. 5, lines 55-57. Any user who answers the page by actuating his ICM button 44, turning off paging amplifiers 48 in all station sets and ready for two-way conversation between the initiator and the respondent. See col. 5, lines 59-68. Nowhere does Coviello disclose or suggest that the initiating station set can select a group among all of the station sets for paging, as recited in claim 11.

Heep fails to cure the defect of Coviello as applied to claim 11. Heep discloses an intercom system having a plurality of intercom units connected in communication over a series of frequency modulated channels implemented on a wire pair of a local telephone network. See col. 2, lines 34-38. Each intercom unit includes a keypad 57 having eight address keys 58, each corresponding to one of the intercom units on the intercom system. See FIG. 1, and col. 2, lines 46-52. FIG. 2 shows a block circuit diagram of an intercom unit. To page another intercom unit, a caller on one intercom unit activates the unit by lifting the handset and presses the

address key of that intercom unit (step 110 in FIG. 3). See col. 6, lines 9-30. Thus, an intercom unit (relied upon as the first telephone) can only page another intercom unit. There is no option for an intercom unit to select a group among the intercom units in the system for paging, as recited in claim 11.

In light of the fact that Coviello and Heep, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest a multiline KSU-less telephone system including a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones for paging, as recited in independent claim 11, applicants respectfully submit that claim 11, and dependent claim 14, are patentable over the two references.

Applicants submit that the arguments made above with respect to claim 11 are also applicable to claim 15, and submit that claim 15, and dependent claim 18, are patentable over the two references.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coviello in view of Heep and further in view of US 6,636,595 ("Core")

Responsive to the rejection of claims 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coviello in view of Heep and Core, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable because Core fails to cure the defect of Coviello and Heep as applied to claims 11 and 15, from which claims 12 and 16 respectively depend.

Core's invention relates to a non-KSU telephone system, which includes message recording in response to a transferred call, distributed message taking, and distribution and storage of calling party identification (CPID) information. See col. 1, lines 13-19. Core does not disclose or suggest a paging system, nor does Core disclose or suggest a multiline KSU-less telephone system including a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones for paging, as recited in independent claims 11 and 15.

Furthermore, the CPID is the identification of a calling party outside of the system shown in FIG. 2, not one of the auto attendant stations in the system. As such, Core does not disclose or suggest the feature of displaying an identification number of a first telephone initiating the paging, as recited in claims 12 and 16, and claims 12 and 16 are patentable for this reason alone.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coviello in view of Heep and further in view of US 5,768,344 ("Kruger")

Responsive to the rejection of claims 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coviello in view of Heep and Kruger, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable because Kruger fails to cure the defect of Coviello and Heep as applied to claims 11 and 15, from which claims 13 and 17 respectively depend.

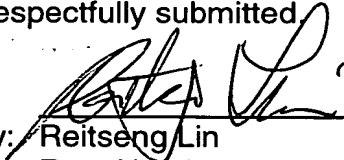
Kruger discloses a remote audio monitor for use with answering devices that allows a user to screen telephone calls from one or many different remote locations, but it does not disclose or suggest a paging system, let alone a multiline KSU-less telephone system including a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones for paging, as recited in independent claims 11 and 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, the Applicant believes that they have overcome all of the Examiner's basis for rejection, and that this application therefore stands in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Applicant requests that he contact their undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues without the necessity of issuing another Office Action.



Respectfully submitted,

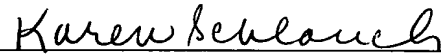
By: 
Reg. No. 42,804
Phone (609) 734-6813

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
April 23, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop AF], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

4-23-04
Date


Karen Schlauch

RECEIVED

APR 29 2004

Technology Center 2800